Memo to file

December 30, 2003

From: Peter E. Kurtze

Administrator, Evaluation and Registration

Re: M: 28-7-2

Anna L. Thomas Nesbitt House (Sweetbriar)

The property documented in the following MIHP form has not been formally evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The comments in the text are those of the preparer of the documentation. The State Historic Preservation Officer has neither concurred nor disagreed with those comments.

CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET Survey No.: M:28-7-2 (PACS 9.19) Construction Date: 1896 Name: Anna L. Thomas Nesbitt Property / Sweetbriar Location: 17920 New Hampshire Avenue, Ashton, Montgomery County

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Yes:restricted

Description:

The Anna L. Thomas Nesbitt Property, also known as Sweetbriar, is a $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, 3-bay Queen Anne-style house on the west side of New Hampshire Avenue in Ashton, Montgomery County. Constructed in 1896, the building has a main hipped roof with several projecting gables and dormers. The front elevation has an off-center projecting gable with a 1-story front porch located at the intersection of the main block and projecting gable. The porch wraps-around from the front elevation to the north elevation. The south elevation has a projecting gable and a shed roof dormer. The north elevation has two gables; one gable projects while the second gable is flush with the exterior wall. The rear elevation has a 2-story shed roof extension and a 1-story shed roof porch enclosed circa 1920. The attic level has two hipped roof dormers.

Significance:

In 1896, Alban G. Thomas of "Tanglewood" constructed a house for his recently married daughter, Anna L. Thomas Nesbitt on .4 hectares (1 acre) of land purchased from Charles and Jane Porter. The first record of the dwelling, known as "Sweetbriar", is an October 1896 Mutual Fire Insurance Company policy (Policy #33392) purchased by A.G. Thomas for Anna Nesbitt. The house is described as a frame dwelling covered with shingles, 3-stories with a wing, two passages, three porches, two fireplaces, two chimneys and nine rooms, with a value of \$2200. Winter vacancy was permitted by the insurance company. Anna Thomas Nesbitt's husband, George Nesbitt, was employed as secretary of the Sandy Spring Savings Institution. Upon the death of George Nesbitt from tuberculosis in 1902, Anna Thomas Nesbitt moved to her father's home "Tanglewood" with her two children. The property remained in Anna Thomas Nesbitt's ownership. A few months after Anna's brother, Frederick L. Thomas, married Eliza Bentley in 1912, he moved into Sweetbriar.

Anna Thomas Nesbitt died on October 29, 1928, with all property left to her brother Frederick L. Thomas. Her children were in possession of the property by 1945, when Sweetbriar was sold to Richard and Dorothy Janney, cousin's of the Thomas'. In 1982, the property was purchased by Peter and Mary Janney Conlon. In 1989, Sweetbriar was sold to the current owners, Paul and Joanne McCaffrey. The size of the property remains .6 hectares (1.5 acres).

Preparer P.A.C. Spero & Company May 1998

1.	Name:	(indicate preferred	name)		
histo	ric Anna L	. Thomas Nesbitt Propert	cy / Sweetbriar (prefer	red)	
and/o	r common M	cCaffrey Property			
2.	Locat				
stree	t & number	17920 New Hampshire Ave	enue <u>N/A</u> not f	or publication	
city,	town Asht	on vicinity o	of congressi	onal district	
state		Maryland	county	Montgomery	
3.	Class	ification:			
X bui	strict ilding(s) ructure te ject	Ownershippublic _X_privateboth Public Acquisitionin processbeing considered _X_not applicable	Status _X_occupiedunoccupiedwork in progress Accessible _X_yes: restrictedyes: unrestrictedno	Present Useagriculturecommercialeducationentertainmentgovernmentindustrialmilitarytransportation	museumpark _X_private residencereligiousscientific
		of Property:	(give names and mail	ing addresses of <u>all</u>	owners)
street	. a number	17920 New Hampshire Ave	nue	telephone no.:	
city,t	own Ashtor			state and zip code	MD 20861
5.	Locat.	ion of Legal I	Description		
Land R	Records Offi	ice of Montgomery County			liber 9037
street	: & number	Montgomery County Judi	cial Center		folio 386
city,t	own Rocky	ville		stat	e Maryland
6.	Repres	sentation in l	Existing Hist	orical Surve	eys
title					
date			federal	statecounty	local
_ ⊲eposi	tory for su	irvey records		_	
city,t	own	***************************************		state	

7. Description

Survey No. M:28-7-2 (PACS 9.19)

Condition Xexcellent good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one Xunaltered altered	Check onemoved	date of move	

Resource Count: 4

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Anna L. Thomas Nesbitt Property, also known as Sweetbriar, is a $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, 3-bay Queen Annestyle house on the west side of New Hampshire Avenue in Ashton, Montgomery County. Constructed in 1896, the building has a main hipped roof with several projecting gables and dormers. The front elevation has an off-center projecting gable with a 1-story front porch located at the intersection of the main block and projecting gable. The porch wraps-around from the front elevation to the north elevation. The south elevation has a projecting gable and a shed roof dormer. The north elevation has two gables; one gable projects while the second gable is flush with the exterior wall. The rear elevation has a 2-story shed roof extension and a 1-story shed roof porch enclosed circa 1920. The attic level has two hipped roof dormers.

The structure is of wood-frame construction with a stone foundation and an asphalt shingle roof. The first story has wood siding, while the second story is covered with wood shingles. The wood shingles are square cut with a row of octagon-shape shingles on the second story and the gable ends of the attic level have octagon-shape shingles. The windows are wood double-hung and brick nterior chimneys are located on the front and rear slopes of the main hipped roof.

The porch on the east, or front facade has a standing-seam metal roof supported by six doric columns. The porch floor is wood with brick piers. Within the porch, the main entrance is a 3-panel wood door with a Queen Anne window. The second story has a single 2/2 double-hung window. The first and second stories of the projecting bay each have a pair of 1/1 double-hung windows. The attic level of the gable end has a pair of 2/2 double-hung windows.

At the intersection of the main block and projecting gable on the south elevation is a 2-story porch with a shed roof. The first story has a doric column at the corner. The second story has a closed half-wall railing and a post covered with wood shingles. Within the porches, on the west elevation, are a 12-light wood door on the first story and a 2-light wood panel door on the second story.

The south elevation has a pair of 1/1 double-hung windows on the first and second stories of the main block. The first story of the projecting gable has a 1-story canted bay. The bay has a flat roof and three 2/4 double-hung windows. The second story and attic level each have a pair of 1/1 double-hung windows. The shed roof dormer on the south elevation has two 4-light casement windows. The south elevation of the 2-story shed roof extension which projects from the rear elevation has vinyl double doors on the first story and a pair of 1/1 double-hung windows on the second story. The enclosed shed roof porch has a wood 6/1 double-hung window on the south elevation.

The rear elevation has a wood bulkhead entrance to the basement level at the southwest corner. A single 1/1 double-hung window and a pair of 1/1 double-hung windows were located on the first nd second stories. The enclosed shed roof porch has a single-light wood panel door and a pair of 6/1 double-hung windows. The second story of the shed roof extension has a 2/2 double-hung window. The attic level has two hipped roof dormers with 6/6 double-hung windows.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Anna L. Thomas Nesbitt Property / Sweetbriar

SURVEY NO.: M:28-7-2 (PACS 9.19)

ADDRESS: 17920 New Hampshire Avenue, Ashton, Montgomery County

7. Description (Continued)

The north elevation has a 2/2 double-hung window on the first story of the main block, a projecting gable and a shed roof rear extension. The second story of the main block has a 2/2 double-hung window and a Queen Anne fixed sash window. The second story of the projecting gable has a pair of single-light fixed sash windows and a 2/2 double-hung window. The attic level of the projecting gable end has a pair of 1/1 double-hung windows. The flush gable end has a 2/2 double-hung window. The north elevation of the enclosed porch has a pair of 4-light casement windows.

There are three outbuildings associated with this property. The first outbuilding is a garage/carriage house, with a cross-gable roof covered with standing-seam metal. Constructed in 1896, it is of wood-frame construction with a stone foundation and German wood siding. The building has a 1-story shed roof section on the west elevation with an open garage bay. The east elevation has an enclosed shed roof addition with sliding wood double doors. The structure is located southwest of the house.

The second and third outbuildings are wood-frame chicken houses constructed circa 1920 and 1930. he buildings have multi-light casement windows on the south elevation and vertical wood siding. he structures are located west of the house and north of the garage.

The property is located on the west side of New Hampshire Avenue, with a residential property constructed in 1918 to the north (Miller House, M:28-7-1), and circa 1980 residential development to the south and west.

8. Significance

Survey No. M:28-7-2 (PACS 9.19)

Period	Areas of Signif.	icance—Check and	justify below				
_prehistoric	archaeology-prehistori	cCommunity plar	nninglandscape architecture	religion			
_1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science			
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture			
1600 - 1699	<u>X</u> architecture	education	military	social/			
1700-1799	art´	engineering	music	humanitarian			
1800-1899	commerce	exploration/settl	ement <u>philosophy</u>	theater			
	communication		politics/government	transportation			
		invention	other (specify)				
Specific da	tes 1896	E	Builder/Architect Unknown				
check:	Applicable Criteria: <u>A B X C</u> D and/or						
	Applicable Exceptions:ABCDEFG						
	Level of Significance:nationalstate_X_local						

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

In 1896, Alban G. Thomas of "Tanglewood" constructed a house for his recently married daughter, Anna L. Thomas Nesbitt on .4 hectares (1 acre) of land purchased from Charles and Jane Porter. The first record of the dwelling, known as "Sweetbriar", is an October 1896 Mutual Fire Insurance Company policy (Policy #33392) purchased by A.G. Thomas for Anna Nesbitt. The house is described as a frame dwelling covered with shingles, 3-stories with a wing, two passages, three porches, wo fireplaces, two chimneys and nine rooms, with a value of \$2200. Winter vacancy was permitted by the insurance company. Anna Thomas Nesbitt's husband, George Nesbitt, was employed as secretary of the Sandy Spring Savings Institution. Upon the death of George Nesbitt from tuberculosis in 1902, Anna Thomas Nesbitt moved to her father's home "Tanglewood" with her two children. The property remained in Anna Thomas Nesbitt's ownership. In 1912, Frederick L. Thomas, Anna Thomas Nesbitt's brother, married Eliza Bentley and moved into Sweetbriar.

The Mutual Fire Insurance policy #49632 notes that the household furniture and clothing of Frederick L. Thomas are now insured within the house of Anna Thomas Nesbitt. In March of 1913, the insurance company granted, "permission to keep auto in stable." In 1914, Anna Thomas Nesbitt purchased an additional .2 hectares (.5 acres) of land from Benjamin and Sarah Miller. The total acreage of the property is now .6 hectares (1.5 acres).

The February 1920 insurance policy (policy #62203) records that the furniture and silver of Anna Thomas Nesbitt are located in the dwelling of her father and that Frederick L. Thomas still resides at Sweetbriar. At that time, the building had steam heat, oil lights and an engine in the garage to pump water from the well. By 1921, the house had been electrified, as the annual update to the insurance policy (February 1921) notes that a Delco Light Plant was installed in the garage and electric lights in the house. Due to the electrification of the property, its value increased from \$4000 to \$6000 between 1920 and 1921.

Anna Thomas Nesbitt died on October 29, 1928, with all property left to her brother Frederick L. Thomas. Her children were in possession of the property by 1945, when Sweetbriar was sold to Richard and Dorothy Janney, cousin's of the Thomas'. In 1982, the property was purchased by Peter and Mary Janney Conlon. In 1989, Sweetbriar was sold to the current owners, Paul and Danne McCaffrey. The size of the property remains .6 hectares (1.5 acres).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Anna L. Thomas Nesbitt Property / Sweetbriar

SURVEY NO.: M:28-7-2 (PACS 9.19)

ADDRESS: 17920 New Hampshire Avenue, Ashton, Montgomery County

8. Significance (Continued)

The Anna L. Thomas Nesbitt Property is located in Ashton. The community of Ashton in northern Montgomery County was, until 1890, a part of neighboring Sandy Spring and shares that town's early Quaker roots. Ashton centers roughly on the intersection of MD 650 (New Hampshire Avenue) and MD 108 (Olney-Sandy Spring Road) where early Quaker farmers brought their produce to be weighed. The crossroads also attracted Caleb Stabler and Charlie Porter who opened a store around 1860 and named it Ashton. The actual significance of this name is uncertain. In 1889 Albin G. Thomas, a Quaker, took over the Ashton store. This community commenced its official existence when it received a post office in 1890, taking its name from Stabler and Porter's store.

Twentieth century development in Ashton featured the community's rural character. In fact the first "development" in 1934 consisted of six "farmettes" complete with a small orchard and barn, and room for gardening and animals. Further developments undertaken since World War II, such as Ashton Pond and Ashmead, often took shape as planned communities under the supervision of local, as well as outside developers. Current county zoning, which requires lots of 2 hectares (5 acres), has helped preserve the rural nature of Ashton.

he house on the Anna L. Thomas Nesbitt Property was constructed in the Queen Anne-style. etween 1880 and 1900, the Queen Anne style became the most popular architectural form in the United States. This style relies on a contrast of construction materials and irregular roof A variety of roof forms are possible, including a hipped roof with cross gables, a cross-gable roof, a front-gable roof and the town house type. The Queen Anne style can be further subdivided by its decorative detailing. The first Queen Anne houses built in the United States displayed half-timbering in the gables or upper floors. This subtype, as well as patterned masonry examples, total only ten percent of the Queen Anne style houses built in this Half of all Queen Anne style houses demonstrate ornamental spindlework. "gingerbread" or Eastlake detailing is often found on porches and gable ends. The last variation of the Queen Anne style first appeared in the 1890s and is called the free classic. This style of ornamentation replaced the delicate spindlework with classical columns and added Palladian windows, dentil cornice molding and other classical details. The free classic Queen Anne examples began the transition from the Victorian styles to the Colonial Revival and were constructed circa 1910 (McAlester 1984, 264).

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RESOURCE NAME: Anna L. Thomas Nesbitt Property / Sweetbriar

SURVEY NO.: M:28-7-2 (PACS 9.19)

ADDRESS: 17920 New Hampshire Avenue, Ashton, Montgomery County

8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation:

The Anna L. Thomas Nesbitt Property, constructed in 1896, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, as a good example of the Queen Anne style. The property possesses excellent architectural integrity, and retains such character-defining features as a complex roof form with multiple gables, various exterior siding materials, extensive porches, and Queen Anne sash windows.

The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state, or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. Finally, preliminary studies conducted for this project indicate the need for further assessment of the archaeological potential of this property. Therefore, no evaluation under Criterion D is being conducted at this time.

Eligibility recommended Comments	MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST Eligibility Not Recommended	
Reviewer, OPS: Reviewer, NR Program:	Date: Date:	

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9. Major Bibliographical References No. M:28-7-2(PACS 9.19)

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property <u>.6 hectares (1.5 acres)</u>

Quadrangle name <u>Sandy Spring</u>, MD Quadrangle scale <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Attached

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries state code county code

state

code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tim Tamburrino

rganization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date May 1998

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:Maryland Historical Trust DHCP/DHCD 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 (410) 514-7600

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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SURVEY NO.: M:28-7-2 (PACS 9.19)

ADDRESS: 17920 New Hampshire Avenue, Ashton, Montgomery County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

- Boyd, T.H.S. 1968. The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, From its Earliest Settlement in Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company.
- Brugger, Robert A. 1988. <u>Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980</u>. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Coleman, Margaret Marshall. 1984. <u>Montgomery County: A Pictorial History</u>. Rev. 1990. Norfolk and Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers.
- Farquhar, Roger Brooke. 1962. <u>Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland</u>. Washington: Judd and Detweiller, Inc.
- Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. 1976. <u>A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland</u>. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society.
- opkins, G.M. [1879] 1975. <u>Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including the County of Montgomery, Maryland</u>. Reprint. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society.
 - Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.
 - Martenet, Simon J. [1865] 1975. <u>Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland</u>. Reprint. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society.
 - McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
 - Montgomery County Historical Society. Vertical Files. "Ashton".
 - Sharf, J. Thomas. <u>History of Western Maryland</u>. 2 vols. Philadelphia: 1882. Rprt. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968.
- Tindall, George Brown. 1984. <u>America: A Narrative History</u>. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

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RESOURCE NAME: Anna L. Thomas Nesbitt Property / Sweetbriar

SURVEY NO.: M:28-7-2 (PACS 9.19)

ADDRESS: 17920 New Hampshire Avenue, Ashton, Montgomery County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The National Register boundaries of the Anna L. Thomas Nesbitt Property follow the current property lines of 17920 New Hampshire Avenue (Tax Map JT342 / Parcel P200). This .6 hectare (1.5 acre) parcel is bounded on the north by a 1918 residence (Miller House, M:28-7-1), and on the south and west by modern residential development. The boundary includes the main house, garage/carriage house and two chicken coops, all contributing structures. According to deed research, the property was originally part of a .4 hectare (1 acre) parcel which was purchased for Anna L. Thomas Nesbitt in 1896. Nesbitt added .2 hectares (.5 acres) to the acreage in 1914. The total acreage recommended for the National Register boundary is .6 hectares (1.5 acres).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

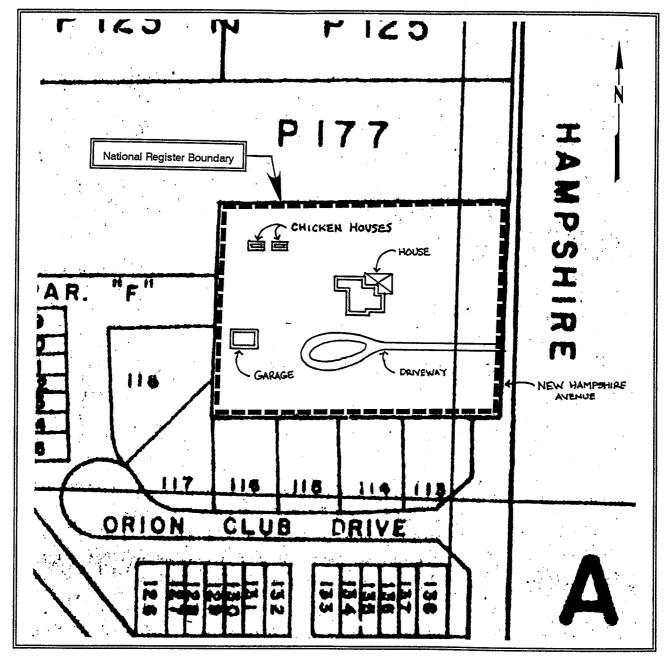
RESOURCE NAME: Anna L. Thomas Nesbitt Property / Sweetbriar

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10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch and National Register Boundary Map:



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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Anna L. Thomas Nesbitt Property / Sweetbriar

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ADDRESS: 17920 New Hampshire Avenue, Ashton, Montgomery County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Building

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Suburban

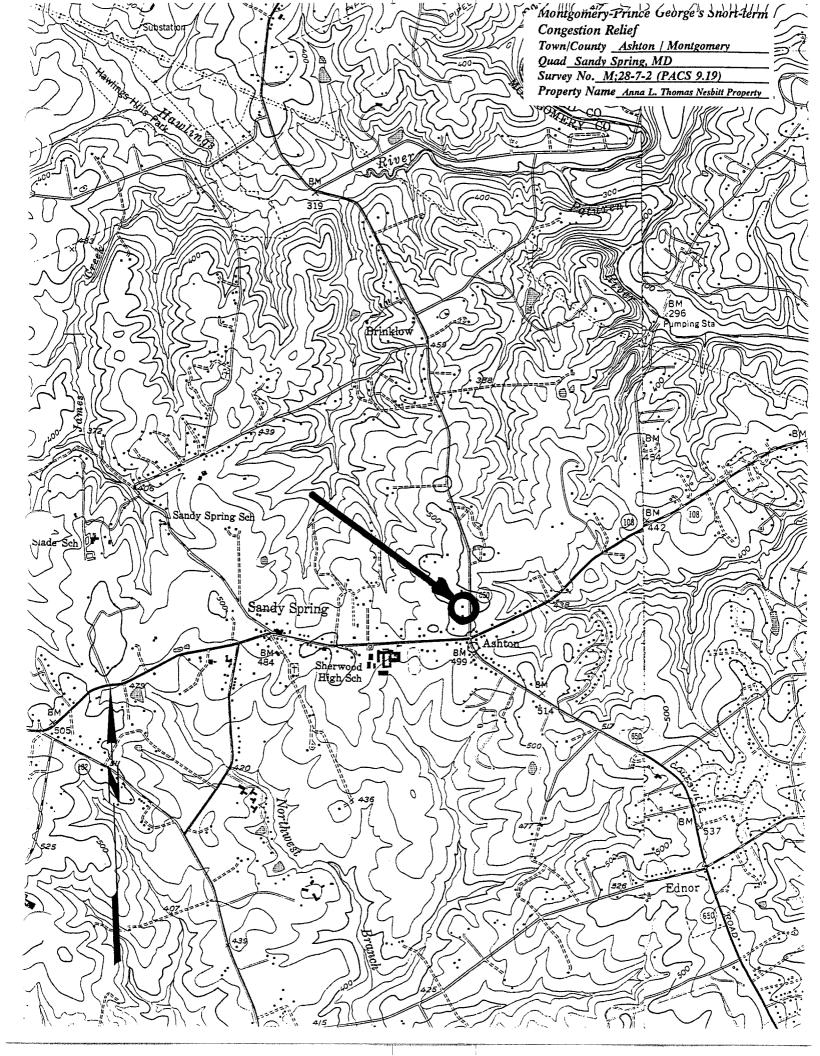
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Private Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Preparer P.A.C. Spero & Company May 1998







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1 3 of 12

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8 5 of 12

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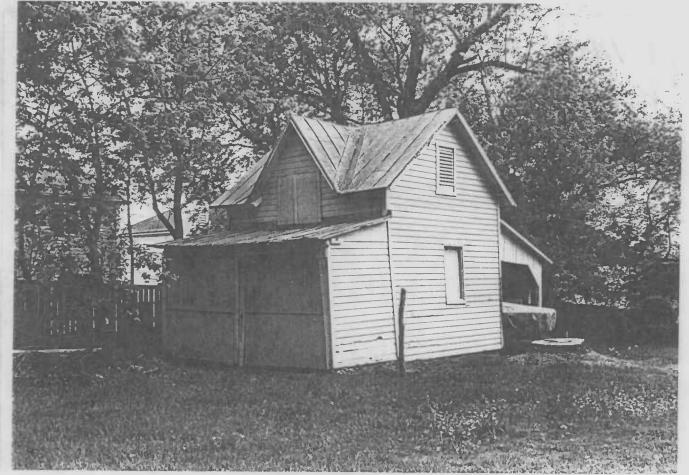
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